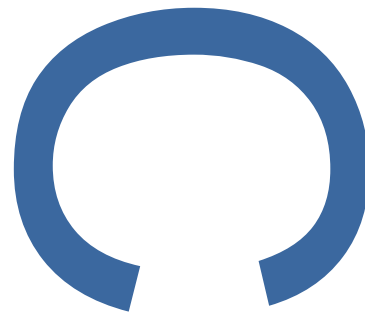
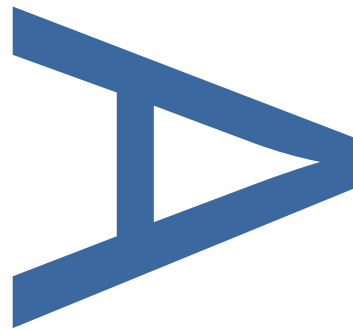


**Sun Wharf, Creekside, SE8
3DZ**



Archaeological Watching Brief



| | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Planning reference</i> | DC/20/118229 | | |
| <i>Local planning authority</i> | London Borough of Lewisham | | |
| <i>PCA report no.</i> | R15282 | <i>Site Code</i> | CKI23 |
| <i>PCA project no</i> | K8190 | <i>Date</i> | January 2023 |

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

www.pre-construct.com

| Project Information | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Site name | Sun Wharf, Creekside, SE8 3DZ |
| Project type | Archaeological Watching Brief |
| Site address | Sun Wharf, Creekside, Deptford, Lewisham, London, SE8 3DZ |
| NGR | TQ 37586 77389 |
| Local planning authority | London Borough of Lewisham |
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| Commissioning client | RPS Group |
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CONTENTS

| | | |
|----|---|----|
| 1 | Abstract..... | 4 |
| 2 | Introduction | 4 |
| 3 | Planning Background..... | 5 |
| 4 | Geology And Topography..... | 5 |
| 5 | Archaeological And Historical Background..... | 6 |
| 6 | Methodology | 10 |
| 7 | Phased Archaeological Sequence..... | 11 |
| 8 | Conclusions | 16 |
| 9 | Acknowledgements..... | 17 |
| 10 | Bibliography | 17 |

APPENDICES

| | | |
|----|---------------------------------|----|
| 11 | Appendix 1: Context Index | 21 |
| 12 | Appendix 2: Oasis Report..... | 22 |
| 13 | Appendix 3: Site Matrix..... | 23 |

ILLUSTRATIONS

| | | |
|--|---|----|
| | Figure 1: Site Location Plan..... | 18 |
| | Figure 2: Detailed Site Location Plan | 19 |
| | Figure 3: Sections | 20 |

1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd during geotechnical investigations at the Sun Wharf, Creekside redevelopment project located in Deptford, in the London Borough of Lewisham, SE8 3DZ (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out during site investigation works between the 3rd and 6th of January 2023. The broad objectives of the work were to characterise the nature of the buried deposits and allow an assessment of their archaeological potential.
- 1.3 In the deepest interventions, natural deposits were encountered consisting of Kempton Park Gravel.
- 1.4 The gravels were overlain by peat and alluvium, then sealed by historic made ground – likely the result of post-medieval ground reclamation – and finally modern made ground.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) was instructed by RPS Group to undertake an archaeological watching brief during a geotechnical site investigation in advance of the proposed redevelopment at Sun Wharf, Creekside, SE8 3DZ, centred at National Grid Reference TQ 37586 77389 in the London Borough of Lewisham (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The site was 0.73 hectares in extent, and bordered by Deptford Creek to the east, a residential development (fronting Cofferdam Way) to the north, Creekside (and buildings fronting it) to the east and by the London to Greenwich railway to the south.
- 2.3 The archaeological investigations were carried out between the 3rd and 6th of January 2023, and monitored geotechnical works as per advice to the local planning authority from Mark Stevenson of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) at Historic England (HE), the archaeology advisor. PCA were appointed by the client's archaeological consultant at RPS Group to undertake the watching brief, and prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (Mayo, 2022) which was approved by GLAAS.
- 2.4 The work was supervised by Lauren Ward of PCA, and the project was managed by Chris Mayo of PCA. The project was monitored for the local planning authority by Mr Stevenson of GLAAS.
- 2.5 The completed archive comprising written, drawn, and photographic records will be deposited with the Museum of London Archaeological Archive (MLAA) identified by the unique site code CKI23.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Development at the site is governed by policies contained within the following:
- The National Planning Policy Framework (July 2021)
 - The London Plan (March 2021)
 - The current Local Development Framework for Lewisham, primarily comprising the London Plan, the Lewisham Core Strategy (2011), the Site Allocations Local Plan (2013), the Lewisham Town Centre Local Plan (2014) and the Development Management Local Plan (2014). The Lewisham Core Strategy (2011) is gradually being replaced with new Local Development Framework policies.
- 3.2 The site is located within Area of Archaeological Priority 8, Deptford Creek, as designated by the London Borough of Lewisham.
- 3.3 A planning application for the redevelopment of the site has been submitted to the London Borough of Lewisham, under application number DC/20/118229. The proposed scheme will see the demolition of the existing buildings and structures, and redevelopment to provide 220 residential units (C3 Use Class) and 1,132sqm of commercial floorspace (Use Class E) plus 311sqm of commercial floorspace (Use Class E) in a container building, together with associated wheelchair accessible vehicle parking, cycle parking, landscaping, play areas, public realm, improvements to river wall and public riverside walkway and associated works.
- 3.4 The planning application was supported by a Desk Based Assessment (DBA) prepared for the site in 2021 by the client's archaeological consultant at RPS Group.
- 3.5 During the consultation process Mr Stevenson at GLAAS advised that the proposed development at the site should be subject to an archaeological planning condition which, in the first instance, would be addressed by archaeological monitoring of geotechnical Site Investigation (SI) works. PCA were appointed by the client's archaeological consultant at RPS Group to undertake the watching brief, and prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (Mayo, 2022) which designed the works, and was approved by GLAAS.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 As reported within the DBA (RPS Group, 2021), the existing ground level of the site was roughly level at c.4.6m OD.
- 4.2 Deptford Creek, part of the Ravensbourne River, flows from south to north along the study site's eastern boundary, towards its confluence with the Thames to the north.
- 4.3 The British Geological Survey shows that the site is located on an area of alluvium, associated with the adjacent Deptford Creek, and an area of Kempton Park Gravels to the west.
- 4.4 A historic borehole recorded on the British Geological Survey website records c.1.8m of Made Ground within the north-east area of the study site, overlying natural 'drift' deposits.

- 4.5 Geotechnical work at the Kent Wharf site immediately north of the study site revealed Shepperton Gravels beneath c.4m of alluvial deposits, largely inorganic, with peat noted to the west, and organic fragments noted towards the centre of the site. Quantities of made ground were observed above the alluvium.
- 4.6 A geoarchaeological borehole survey subsequently identified the top of the Shepperton Gravels level at -1.64m to -2.23m OD, overlain with 0.96-2.2m of Lower Alluvium. Towards the south of the site, the Lower Alluvium was absent and appears to have been removed by the formation of either a channel/tributary of the Deptford Creek or a tree hollow, which was subsequently infilled with c.2m of peat. Both the peat and Lower Alluvium were overlain by Upper Alluvium and c.3m of made ground (QUEST, 2015) (QUEST, 2016) (QUEST, 2017).

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological and historical background given below is derived from the project specific DBA (RPS Group, 2021) which included a search of the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER) with a radius of 500m from the site.

5.1 Prehistoric

- 5.1.1 No archaeological finds or features of either Palaeolithic or Mesolithic date have been identified within a 500m radius of the study site.
- 5.1.2 A geoarchaeological deposit model created at Hilton's Wharf to the east of the study site on the opposite side of the creek indicated the likelihood of preserved evidence dating to the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods
- 5.1.3 Peat deposits identified within the southern part of the Kent Wharf site immediately north of the study site have been dated to a period of c.4000 years spanning the Late Mesolithic to late Bronze Age, and may have infilled a former channel/tributary of Deptford Creek or a tree throw. The course of this possible channel may have been through the centre of the study site and the projected course is probably indicated by the thickness of the peat. Analysis of the peat samples indicates a wet floodplain environment, subject to periodic inundation, with a possible cereal grain indicative of human interaction with the landscape (QUEST, 2016) (QUEST, 2017).
- 5.1.4 By the 1st millennium, i.e., 1000 BC, the landscape was probably a mix of extensive tracts of open farmland, punctuated by earthwork burial and ceremonial monuments from distant generations, with settlements, ritual areas and defended locations reflecting an increasingly hierarchical society.
- 5.1.5 The sole evidence of prehistoric date identified within the 500m study area comprise four undiagnostic, redeposited, flint flakes identified at 9-10 Blackheath Road to the south of the site.
- 5.1.6 Geoarchaeological work at Kent Wharf immediately north of the study site contained no

definitive evidence for human activity during the Prehistoric periods. However, peaks in microcharcoal towards the base of the peat found at Kent Wharf suggested nearby burning during the Late Mesolithic which may be natural or anthropogenic in origin. Further up the sequence, certain pollen taxa may indicate disturbance and/or cultivation, although no lithic artefacts were recorded (QUEST, 2015) (QUEST, 2016) (QUEST, 2017).

5.1.7 Therefore in spite of the paucity of finds identified within the study area, the previous work at Kent Wharf combined with the proximity of Deptford Creek, the possible channel within the study site, and the presence of alluvial deposits and Kempton Park Gravels beneath the study site, suggests that the archaeological potential of the study site for the Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age can be categorised as moderate, in particular for palaeoenvironmental evidence. The site's archaeological potential for the Palaeolithic period can be considered to be generally low.

5.2 Roman

5.2.1 Settlement at Deptford is believed to have developed from the Roman period in two locations: at Lower Deptford/Deptford Strand, by the mouth of Deptford Creek to the north of the site, with another at Upper Deptford/Deptford Broadway to the southeast. The line of Watling Street, the Roman road linking London with Dover, Canterbury and Richborough, has been conjectured to run through the study area, to the south of the site between Southwark and Greenwich, although the exact route is unknown.

5.2.2 Excavation at Greenwich Reach c.300m to the north of the site revealed alluvial deposits of possible Roman date; 32 pottery sherds dated to AD70-160 were recovered from a possible ploughsoil. Excavation at the former power station at Deptford Creek to the north revealed Roman 'fragments'.

5.2.3 Artefactual discoveries within the search area have included fragments of an Arretine cup at Greenwich Station to the east, a bronze lamp, either from Albury Street or the River Thames, northwest of the study site, and a coin from Stowage Wharf to the north.

5.2.4 Alluvial deposits containing pottery and charred cereal remains dating from the Roman period through to AD1200 were identified at 43-81 Greenwich High Street c.300m south of the study site. Further peat deposits were recorded immediately south of the study site during works for the DLR Lewisham extension and c.150m to the north at Creek Road.

5.2.5 During the Roman period the study site is believed to have lain away from known centres of activity and settlement, and the eastern part of the site most likely lay within the tidal creek itself. Accordingly, a generally low archaeological potential has been identified for the Roman period at the study site.

5.3 Anglo Saxon / Early Medieval & Medieval

5.3.1 The name Deptford is thought to be derived from 'deep ford' and is thought to have originated around a crossing of the River Ravensbourne, with the focus centred to the west and

northwest of the study site.

- 5.3.2 Excavation at Greenwich Reach c.300m to the north of the site revealed a ditch containing seven sherds of Saxon pottery. Excavation at the former power station at Deptford Creek, also to the north, revealed two sherds of Saxon pottery within a ditch.
- 5.3.3 During the Saxon period the area of the study site probably comprised low lying land associated with the Creek, and as such a generally low archaeological potential has been identified for this period at the site itself.
- 5.3.4 During the medieval period, settlement at Deptford appears to have been divided between centres based around St Nicholas Church and Deptford Green, northwest of the study site, and at Deptford Broadway to the southeast of the study site. Evidence for a bridge and hermitage has been identified at Deptford Bridge c.400m to the south of the study site.
- 5.3.5 The site of a water mill has been identified c.300m to the south of the site. Excavation at Greenwich Reach c.300m to the north of the site identified flood deposits and a ditch of possible medieval origin. Artefactual remains of medieval date within the study area include a jug from Addey Street c.200m to the northwest, and fragments of pottery from Bronze Street c.100m to the west.
- 5.3.6 It is known that during the medieval period land reclamation of the low-lying areas around the Creek began, with embankments created along the river's edge and the area behind drained, and the resulting land primarily used for agriculture. A medieval revetment is recorded immediately south of the study site.
- 5.3.7 While the study site appears to lie away from known areas of settlement and activity, the potential for surviving remains of medieval land reclamation can be identified as moderate.

5.4 **Post-Medieval and Modern**

- 5.4.1 Programmes of land reclamation along the banks of the Creek are understood to have continued throughout the post-medieval period.
- 5.4.2 John Rocque's Survey of London (1745) (DBA Figure 4) shows the study site largely occupied by a gravel pit. Indeed, the 1799 Ordnance Survey Drawing shows no buildings within the study site (DBA Figure 5).
- 5.4.3 The Deptford Tithe Map (1844) (DBA Figure 6) and its associated Award shows the bulk of the site to comprise open ground, with an access road and buildings within the northern part of the site, and part of the Creek within the eastern area. The railway forms the southern boundary of the site.
- 5.4.4 The First Edition Ordnance Survey (1867) (DBA Figure 7) shows the site occupied by houses to the west, fronting the north side of Sun Street, and to the northwest, on the west side of Wharf Place. Normandy Wharf is labelled to the southeast, fronting the Creek, with buildings along the south-eastern part of the site. A comparison of this map with the 1844 Tithe Map suggests land reclamation from the Creek has taken place within the eastern part of the study

site.

- 5.4.5 The Second Edition Ordnance Survey (1894-6) (DBA Figure 8) shows the development of the buildings of Normandy Wharf across the southern part of the study site, and the creation of an Asphalt and Paving Works across the north-eastern part of the study site.
- 5.4.6 The 1936 GOAD Insurance Plan (DBA Figure 9) shows that the houses formerly to the northwest and west have been cleared. The Normandy Wharf buildings have been removed to the southeast, and the site is labelled as the Val de Travers Asphalte Paving Co Limited, Sun Wharf.
- 5.4.7 The World War Two Bomb Damage Map (1946) (DBA Figure 10) indicates that the buildings within the site were impacted: yellow indicates minor blast damage, and orange indicates non-structural blast damage.
- 5.4.8 The 1951 GOAD Insurance Plan (DBA Figure 11) shows further alterations across the study site, in the form of the removal of the northern most building and the alteration of the building within the southern area.
- 5.4.9 The 1991 Ordnance Survey (DBA Figure 12) shows the bulk of the site occupied by a warehouse building, with open space to the west. The 2020 aerial photograph shows no significant change within the study site (DBA Figure 13).
- 5.4.10 The potential of the study site for the Post Medieval and Modern periods is anticipated to be concentrated upon remains of phases of industrial development and redevelopment as represented by map regression.

5.5 Summary of Potential and Significance

- 5.5.1 The desk-based assessment (RPS 2021) included the following table summarising the site's potential and significance:

| Period: | Identified Archaeological Potential and Significance: |
|---------------|---|
| Prehistoric | Low archaeological potential, low significance Moderate Palaeoenvironmental potential, low/moderate significance |
| Roman | Low archaeological potential, low significance |
| Anglo-Saxon | Low archaeological potential, low significance |
| Medieval | Low/moderate archaeological potential, low significance |
| Post Medieval | Moderate archaeological potential, low significance |
| Modern | Moderate archaeological potential, low significance |

6 METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The watching brief was carried out in full compliance with the following:
- Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Greater London (Historic England, 2015)
 - Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England, 2015)
 - Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief (ClfA, 2014 (updated June 2020))
 - PCA's Site Manual for Archaeological Investigations (Taylor, et al., 2009, updated 2018).
- 6.2 The watching brief consisted of monitoring geotechnical site investigations carried out by IDOM Merebrook Ltd. These comprised six window samples to a maximum depth of ca. 5m BGL and two boreholes to a maximum depth of ca. 35m BGL. These also comprised of five trial pits at a maximum depth of ca. 3.3m BGL and two foundation inspection pits at a depth of ca. 1.20m BGL. All are located on Figure 2.
- 6.3 The window samples and boreholes were excavated using a windowless sampling machine and borehole rig respectively. The trial pits were excavated using a mechanical excavator and the foundation inspection pits partly by hand.
- 6.4 In the case of all observed below ground works, monitoring was maintained until natural deposits were securely reached.
- 6.5 All the works were recorded as appropriate at a standard scale of 1:10 or 1:20.
- 6.6 Any artefactual remains were recovered for dating. All archaeological deposits were recorded on pro forma context sheets, and a full photographic record was kept.
- 6.7 The recording system adopted during the investigations was fully compatible with those developed from the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual, now presented within PCA's Site Manual (Taylor, et al., 2009, updated 2018). The site archive was organised to be compatible with other archaeological archives produced within the London Area.
- 6.8 The Ordnance Datum (OD) heights of all principal strata were calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans and sections.
- 6.9 In this report all context numbers (cuts, layers and fills) are written in squared brackets [], small finds are denoted by SF and environmental samples are bracketed with curly brackets {}.
- 6.10 Pro-forma context sheets were filled out and representative sections were drawn to record the archaeological sequence present. Each archaeological context was given a context number and description.
- 6.11 The completed archive produced during the watching brief, comprising written, drawn, and photographic records, will eventually be deposited with Museum of London Archaeological Archive (MLAA) identified with the unique site code CKI23.

7 PHASED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Phase 1: Natural Gravel

7.1.1 The deeper boreholes revealed the underlying natural to comprise of sandy gravel as expected, referred to as Kempton Park Gravels. This was recorded as follows:

| Context No. | Intervention | Section | Type | Description | Highest Level m OD | Thickness / Depth m | Phase | Name |
|-------------|--------------|---------|-------|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------|--------------------|
| 7 | MBH1 | N/A | Layer | Gravel Natural | -2.56 | 28.00 | 1 | Kempton Pk Gravels |
| 29 | MBH2 | N/A | Layer | Gravel Natural | -1.59 | 19.00 | 1 | Kempton Pk Gravels |

7.1.2 In Borehole 1 (MBH1), to the west of the site, the Kempton Park Gravels were identified as mid yellowish-brown sandy mixed gravels [7] recorded at a height of -2.56m OD. The upper few metres of this were observed to be dark blueish-grey in colour however, as they seemed to be contaminated by fuel hydrocarbons, likely due to MBH1's proximity to the drainage system for a modern vehicle washdown area.

7.1.3 Pockets of mottled clay including shells and pebbles starting from around -10.56m OD may be attributed to a possible scour feature within what could have been the prehistoric riverbed.

7.1.4 In Borehole 2 (MBH2) to the east of the site, within the modern warehouse structure, the Kempton Park Gravels were again identified as mid yellowish-brown sandy mixed gravels [29] at a maximum height of -1.59m OD.

7.2 Phase 2: Lower Alluvium

7.2.1 Lower alluvial deposits were observed in only two of the fifteen interventions, as follows:

| Context No. | Intervention | Section | Type | Description | Highest Level m OD | Thickness / Depth m | Phase | Name |
|-------------|--------------|---------|-------|-------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------|----------------------|
| 11 | MWS3 | N/A | Layer | Alluvium | -0.34 | 0.25 | 2 | Lower Alluvium |
| 6 | MBH1 | N/A | Layer | Alluvium | 2.94 | 5.50 | 2/4 | Upper/Lower Alluvium |

7.2.2 In MBH1, all alluvial deposits were recorded as layer [6] at 2.94m OD. As was the case with the gravels below [7], this layer was contaminated by fuel hydrocarbons. For this reason, the upper and lower alluvium deposits were difficult to distinguish, and so were grouped together in this instance, as an entirety of dark blueish-grey alluvial clay.

7.2.3 In Window Sample 3 (MWS3), south of MBH2 to the east of the site, the dark blueish-grey alluvial clay [11] became much cleaner from -0.34m OD, save for a fragment of petrified wood. It has therefore been attributed to the lower alluvium layer to differentiate it from the material above [10].

7.3 Phase 3: Peat

7.3.1 Peat was only observed in MBH2, overlaying the natural gravel [29].

7.3.2 The dark greyish-brown/black spongy layer [50] contained frequent preserved organic plant

material, was 0.83m thick, and the surface was seen at -0.76m OD.

7.4 Phase 4: Upper Alluvium

7.4.1 Upper alluvial deposits were recorded as those that could be distinguished from lower alluvial deposits, or those directly below historic made ground, including alluvial material that may have been redeposited, or otherwise disturbed by more recent activity. Such deposits were observed widely across site, as follows:

| Context No. | Intervention | Section | Type | Description | Highest Level m OD | Thickness / Depth m | Phase | Name |
|-------------|--------------|---------|-------|-------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------|----------------|
| 2 | MWS1 | N/A | Layer | Alluvium | 2.67 | 3.25 | 4 | Upper Alluvium |
| 4 | MWS2 | N/A | Layer | Alluvium | 2.38 | 2.00 | 4 | Upper Alluvium |
| 10 | MWS3 | N/A | Layer | Alluvium | 1.41 | 1.75 | 4 | Upper Alluvium |
| 17 | MBH2 | N/A | Layer | Alluvium | 0.31 | 1.07 | 4 | Upper Alluvium |
| 20 | MWS5 | N/A | Layer | Alluvium | 2.01 | 1.60 | 4 | Upper Alluvium |
| 46 | MTP4 | 4 | Layer | Alluvium | 2.05 | 0.30 | 4 | Upper Alluvium |

7.4.2 In Window Sample 1 (MWS1) at the northern edge of the site, the alluvial deposit [2] was recorded at 2.67m OD as a thick mid-dark blueish-grey silty clay layer containing occasional wood and other organic plant materials, as well as very occasional ceramic building material (CBM) fragments and a layer of fine gravel at 0.62m OD. The inclusion of CBM may suggest this was a layer of redeposited alluvial clay, at least partially.

7.4.3 Window Sample 2 (MWS2), slightly south-east of MWS1, contained a seemingly almost identical alluvial deposit [4] the upper level of which was recorded at 2.38m OD, as did Window Sample 3 (MWS3) further south, and Window Sample 5 (MWS5) and Trial Pit 4 (MTP4) further west. Context [20], recorded at 2.01m OD in MWS5, also contained very occasional shell fragments. Context [10] in MWS3 also contained very occasional chalk fragments and started much lower at 1.41m OD. The upper alluvial deposit in MTP4 [46], recorded at 2.05m OD, seemed to have been cut by a concrete foundation at the eastern end of the pit, beyond the limit of excavation (LOE).

7.4.4 The peat layer in MBH2 discussed prior was sealed by an upper alluvium deposit [17], which rose to 0.31m OD. This was also recorded as a dark blueish-grey silty clay containing occasional preserved plant material (including a hazelnut shell), though it did not appear to contain any man-made material or appear to be redeposited.

7.5 Phase 5: Post-Medieval

7.5.1 All made ground attributed to the post-medieval reclamation of the land along the bank of the Creek has been categorised as historic made ground. Also categorised as historic is any post-medieval masonry or backfill seemingly associated with a building earlier than the one that is currently standing on the site. These historic contexts were observed widely across site, and

were as follows:

| Context No. | Intervention | Section | Type | Description | Highest Level m OD | Thickness / Depth m | Phase | Name |
|-------------|--------------|---------|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------|-------------------------|
| 1 | MWS1 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 3.92 | 1.25 | 5 | Historic MG |
| 9 | MWS3 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 3.41 | 2.00 | 5 | Historic MG |
| 14 | MWS4 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 2.45 | 2.00 | 5 | Historic MG |
| 16 | MBH2 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 3.61 | 3.30 | 5 | Historic MG |
| 19 | MWS5 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 3.41 | 1.40 | 5 | Historic MG |
| 22 | MWS6 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 3.41 | 0.20 | 5 | Historic MG |
| 23 | MWS6 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 3.21 | 2.80 | 5 | Historic MG |
| 35 | MTP1 | 1 | Layer | Made Ground | 3.36 | 0.80 | 5 | Historic MG |
| 36 | MTP1 | 1 | Layer | Made Ground | 2.56 | 1.70 | 5 | Historic MG |
| 37 | MWS4 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 2.65 | 0.20 | 5 | Historic MG |
| 39 | MTP2 | 2 | Layer / Masonry | Made Ground / Structure | 4.21 | 1.20 | 5 | Historic MG / Structure |
| 40 | MTP2 | 2 | Layer / Fill | Made Ground / Backfill | 4.11 | 1.80 | 5 | Historic MG / BF |
| 42 | MTP3 | 3 | Layer / Fill | Made Ground / Backfill | 4.20 | 1.60 | 5 | Historic MG / BF |
| 43 | MTP3 | 3 | Masonry | Foundation | 3.90 | 1.30 | 5 | Historic Structure |
| 45 | MTP4 | 4 | Layer | Made Ground | 4.15 | 2.10 | 5 | Historic MG |
| 48 | MTP5 | 5 | Layer | Made Ground | 3.81 | 1.30 | 5 | Historic MG |
| 49 | MTP5 | 5 | Layer | Made Ground | 2.51 | 1.10 | 5 | Historic MG |
| 51 | MTP2 | 2 | Masonry | Foundation | 4.11 | 1.70 | 5 | Historic Structure |

7.5.2 In MWS1 the alluvium was sealed by a layer of seemingly redeposited mid yellowish-brown silty clay [1], recorded at 3.92m OD, which contained occasional crushed CBM fragments. A similar clay layer [9] was observed to seal the alluvium in MWS3 at 3.41m OD, though it was recorded as having a darker greyish-brown hue.

7.5.3 MWS4 in the south-east corner of the site contained a possible tarmac floor surface for a pre-existing building [37] seen at 2.65m OD. Below this was a 2m thick mixed mid greyish-brown sandy gravel and dark grey silty clay deposit [14] which contained occasional CBM fragments and preserved plant material (possibly redeposited alluvial clay). This was recorded at 2.45m OD.

7.5.4 Also possibly associated with a pre-existing building are contexts [39], [40] and [51] from Trial Pit 2 (MTP2), and contexts [42] and [43] from MTP3. MTP2 contained a possible reinforced concrete floor [39] from 4.21m OD, overlaying a thick mid-dark greyish-brown silty sand backfill / made ground deposit [40] observed at 4.11m OD. A possible concrete foundation [51], extended below the bottom of the trial pit. No construction cut was observed.

7.5.5 MTP3, north of MBH1, also contained a possible earlier foundation, constructed of yellow brick [43], which occurred at 3.90m OD. This was within a dark greyish-brown sandy silt backfill / made ground deposit [42] which rose to 4.20m OD. Once again, no construction cut for the foundation was visible.

7.5.6 Historic made ground horizons were also observed in MBH2, MWS5, MWS6, MTP1, MTP4,

and MTP5. MBH2 contained one 3.3m thick mid reddish-brown silty clay deposit [16] that sealed the alluvium below, which contained very frequent crushed brick. The top of this layer was seen at 3.61m OD. A similar mid reddish-brown deposit [35] with very frequent crushed brick was observed in MTP1 at the far western extent of the site. This contained some post-medieval pottery fragments and a contemporary drainpipe. Layer [35] overlay another historic made ground deposit consisting of a dark grey silty clay [36], which contained occasional CBM, oyster shell and some clay tobacco pipe. This layer was recorded at 2.56m OD.

7.5.7 Another thick reddish deposit with very frequent crushed brick [45] was observed above the alluvium in MTP4 in the south-west corner of the site. This layer was mixed with a mid greyish-brown sandy silt. This greyish-brown material may also appear in MWS5, slightly north-east of MTP4, where a very similar deposit was recorded [19]

7.5.8 A mid-greyish brown sandy silt historic made ground deposit [48] was also observed in MTP5, slightly north-east of MBH2. This layer contained frequent CBM and was recorded at 3.81m OD. Layer [48] overlay a very wet dark grey-black silty clay deposit [49] which contained frequent gravel and occasional other organic and inorganic material. These included wood and other plant materials, as well as CBM, CTP, post-medieval pottery fragments, glass, and mortar. The layer was recorded at 2.51m OD.

7.5.9 Historic made ground with a thickness of 3m was also observed in MWS6 in the north-west corner of the site, from 3.41m OD. This included a dark brownish-black thin layer of sandy silt [22] which contained frequent CBM fragments and burnt material above a thicker mid greyish-brown silty clay layer containing occasional CBM and mortar [23].

7.6 Phase 6: Modern

7.6.1 Modern made ground was observed in almost all interventions on site, due to the fact that almost the entire site area was overlain by a layer of solid concrete (0.10-0.50m thick), for both internal and external modern floor surfaces [+]. Multiple layers of modern material were therefore deposited in order to create a level surface with which to construct these surfaces upon. They were recorded as follows:

| Context No. | Intervention | Section | Type | Description | Highest Level m OD | Thickness / Depth m | Phase | Name |
|-------------|--------------|---------|-------|-------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------|-----------|
| 3 | MWS2 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 4.13 | 1.75 | 6 | Modern MG |
| 5 | MBH1 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 3.94 | 1.00 | 6 | Modern MG |
| 8 | MWS3 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 4.16 | 0.75 | 6 | Modern MG |
| 12 | MWS4 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 3.95 | 0.50 | 6 | Modern MG |
| 13 | MWS4 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 3.45 | 0.80 | 6 | Modern MG |
| 15 | MBH2 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 3.91 | 0.30 | 6 | Modern MG |
| 18 | MWS5 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 3.91 | 0.50 | 6 | Modern MG |

| Context No. | Intervention | Section | Type | Description | Highest Level m OD | Thickness / Depth m | Phase | Name |
|-------------|--------------|---------|-------|-------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------|-----------|
| 21 | MWS6 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 3.91 | 0.50 | 6 | Modern MG |
| 24 | MHP1 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 4.35 | 0.20 | 6 | Modern MG |
| 25 | MHP1 | N/A | Fill | Backfill | 4.15 | 1.00 | 6 | Modern BF |
| 26 | MHP2 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 4.16 | 0.20 | 6 | Modern MG |
| 27 | MHP2 | N/A | Fill | Backfill | 3.96 | 0.55 | 6 | Modern BF |
| 28 | MHP2 | N/A | Fill | Backfill | 3.41 | 0.20 | 6 | Modern BF |
| 30 | MTP1 | 1 | Layer | Made Ground | 4.26 | 0.20 | 6 | Modern MG |
| 31 | MTP1 | 1 | Layer | Made Ground | 4.06 | 0.20 | 6 | Modern MG |
| 32 | MTP1 | 1 | Layer | Made Ground | 3.86 | 0.03 | 6 | Modern MG |
| 33 | MTP1 | 1 | Layer | Made Ground | 3.83 | 0.07 | 6 | Modern MG |
| 34 | MTP1 | 1 | Layer | Made Ground | 3.76 | 0.40 | 6 | Modern MG |
| 38 | MTP2 | 2 | Layer | Made Ground | 4.31 | 0.10 | 6 | Modern MG |
| 41 | MTP3 | 3 | Layer | Made Ground | 4.30 | 0.10 | 6 | Modern MG |
| 47 | MTP5 | 5 | Layer | Made Ground | 4.21 | 0.40 | 6 | Modern MG |

7.6.2 Also included as modern contexts were backfill deposits recorded within the two Foundation Inspection Pits excavated along the east and west external walls of the standing building (MHP1 and MHP2 respectively). No cut was observed within either of the pits, and so has not been recorded, but it is likely that the material within them, contexts [25], [27] and [28], is the backfill of a wider construction cut for the modern walls' foundations. All contained modern construction material/debris (concrete and brick) and were recorded at 4.15 to 3.41m OD.

7.6.3 The modern made ground contexts included layers of solid concrete and tarmac below the current ground surface layer [31], [32], [33], sandy topsoil above modern backfill [24], and layers of concrete fragments, CBM, and redeposited clay and gravel (all other contexts).

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The findings of the work are discussed below, along with conclusions to address the research objectives presented within the WSI (Mayo, 2022 p. 8).
- 8.2 The watching brief at Sun Wharf, Creekside revealed natural deposits beneath an alluvial sequence and sealed by post-medieval deposits, consistent with what was expected of the site from the desk-based assessment (RPS Group, 2021). No prehistoric, Roman, Saxon or medieval human activity was observed.
- 8.3 The natural gravels were revealed at elevations between -2.56m OD in MBH1 and -1.59m OD in MBH2. These are in keeping with the results from Kent Wharf immediately to the north, at which gravel was found between -2.23m OD and -1.64m OD (QUEST 2015, 2016 & 2017).
- 8.4 Towards the south of the Kent Wharf site the Lower Alluvium was absent and appeared to have been removed by the formation of either a channel/tributary of the Deptford Creek or another feature-type (such as a tree hollow), which was subsequently infilled with peat. This also appears to be the case in MBH2, where peat directly overlay the natural gravel. Analysis work undertaken previously on the peat shows it was deposited over a 'period of nearly 4000 years spanning the late Mesolithic to late Bronze Age cultural periods' (QUEST, 2017 p. 2).
- 8.5 The survival of the alluvium and peat layers overlaying the natural gravel provides evidence against the presence of the gravel pit illustrated by John Rocque in 1745 (DBA Figure 4).
- 8.6 Both the peat and lower alluvium were overlain by upper alluvium and made ground at varying thickness. At the north of the site in MWS1 the made ground deposits (both historic and modern) can be seen to reach 1.75m below present ground level. This is very similar to the findings of the historic borehole recorded on the British Geological Survey website, which records c.1.8m of made ground within the north-east area of the study site.
- 8.7 Made ground deposits were found to reach a thickness of c.4m in both MWS4 and MBH2. It may be the case that these deposits are so thick because they represent the backfilling of the docks visible on the 1867 Ordnance Survey Map of the site (DBA Figure 7), which seem to align with the locations of these boreholes. Indeed, MWS3 was located between MWS4 and MBH2 and contained a 3m made ground deposit, more similar to that observed at Kent Wharf to the north (QUEST, 2015) (QUEST, 2016) (QUEST, 2017).
- 8.8 Possible historic floor surfaces and foundations observed in MTP2. MTP3 and MWS4 may be attributed to the buildings of Normandy Wharf, also visible on the 1867 Ordnance Survey Map (DBA Figure 7) and the Second Edition Ordnance Survey (1894-6) (DBA Figure 8) and/or the Asphalt and Paving Works also visible in the 1894-6 OS map, as well as both the 1936 and 1951 GOAD Insurance Plans (DBA Figures 9 & 11).
- 8.9 Once this report is approved, the project deemed complete and any archaeological planning conditions discharged, the completed archive comprising all site records from the fieldwork will eventually be deposited by PCA with the MLAA under the site code CKI23. Until then it

will be securely held by PCA at its offices in London.

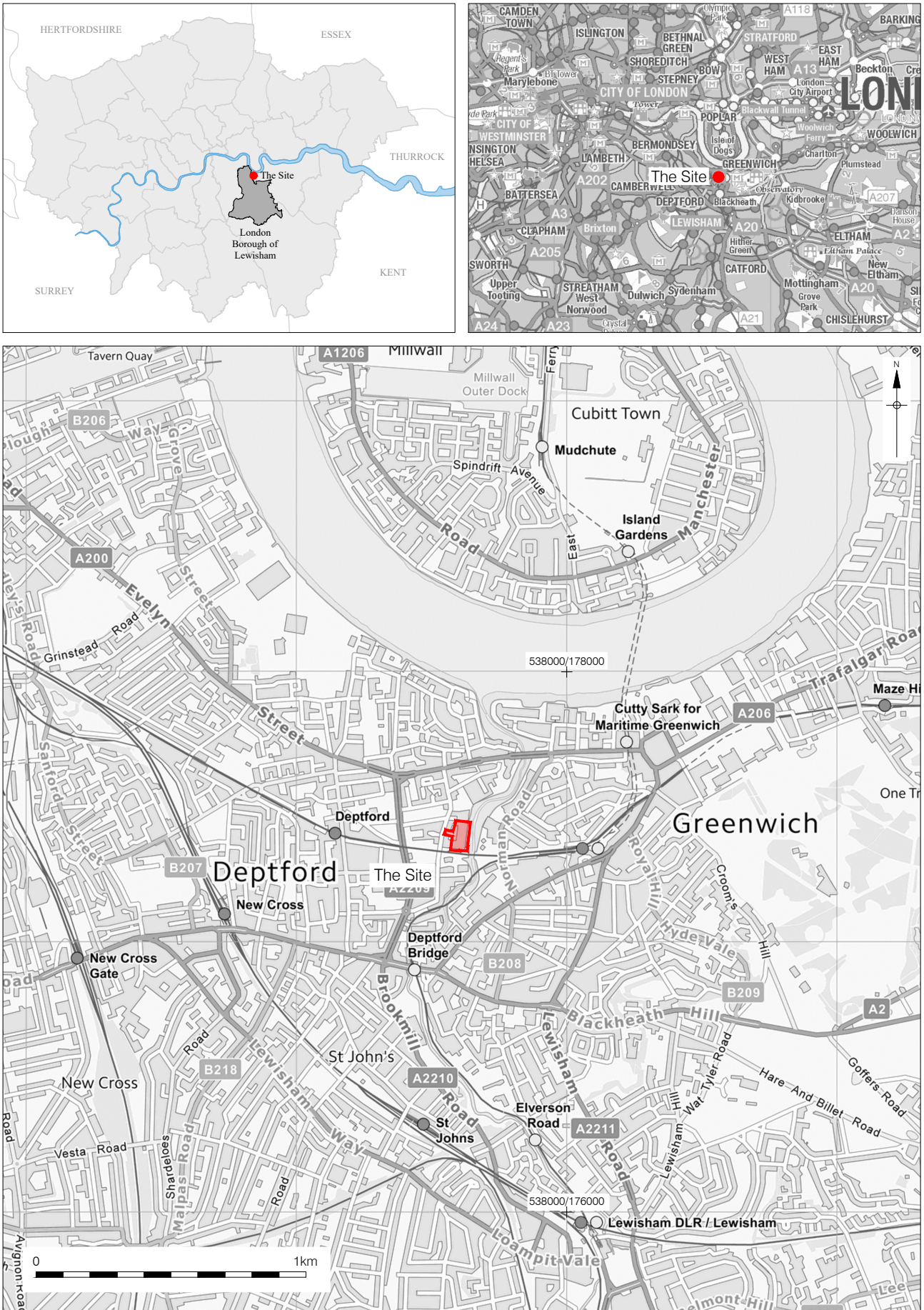
- 8.10 The results of the archaeological investigation will be published by PCA as an entry in the *London Archaeologist* 'Annual Round-Up'.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

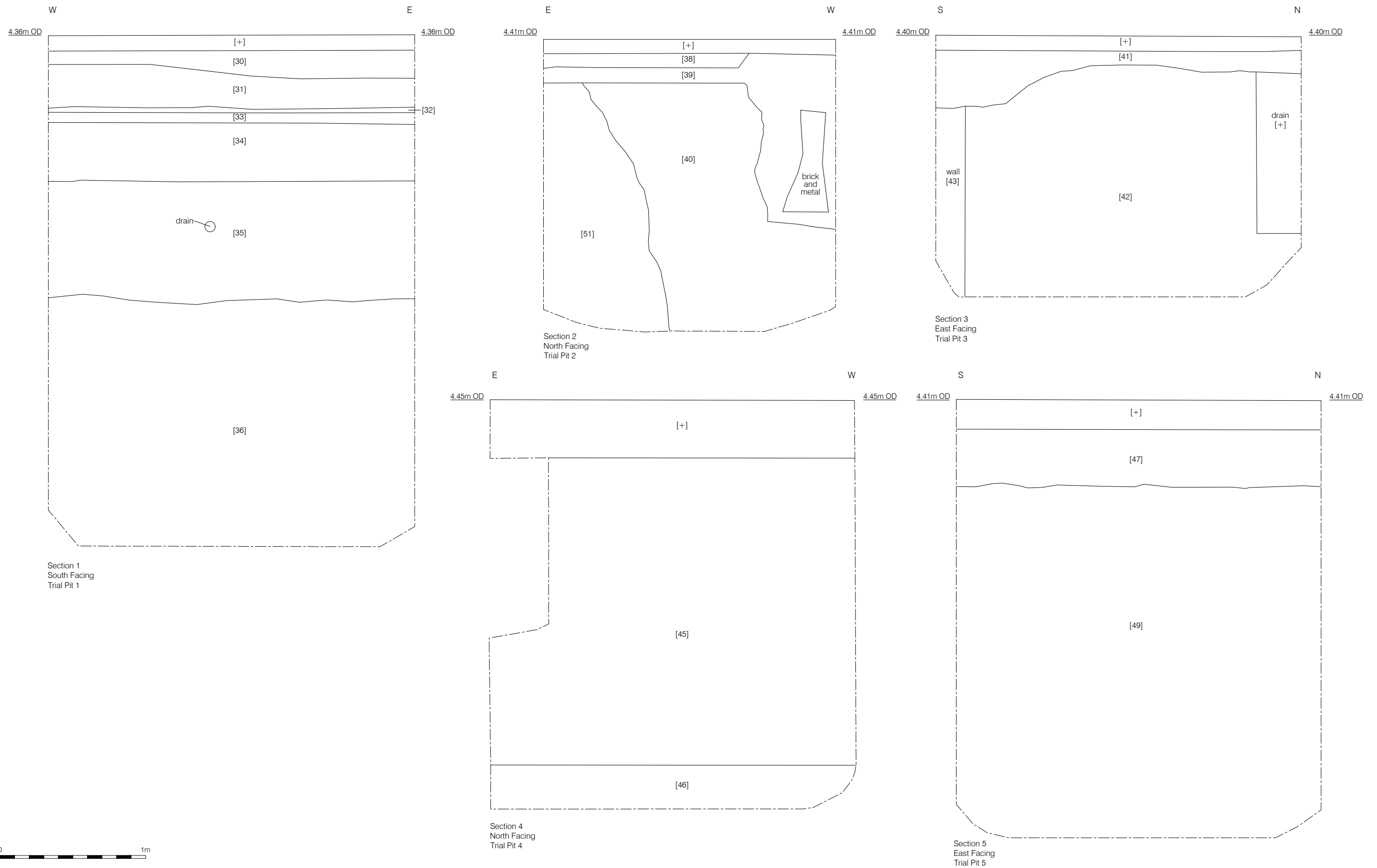
- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank RPS Group for commissioning the archaeological work and Mark Stevenson from Historic England for monitoring the project.
- 9.2 Thank you also to IDOM Merebrook Ltd for their assistance on-site.
- 9.3 The author would like to thank Chris Mayo for project managing the site and editing this report, and Diana Valk for the illustrations.

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11 APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

| Context No. | Intervention | Section | Type | Description | Highest Level m OD | Thickness / Depth m | Phase | Name |
|-------------|--------------|---------|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------|-------------------------|
| 1 | MWS1 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 3.92 | 1.25 | 5 | Historic MG |
| 2 | MWS1 | N/A | Layer | Alluvium | 2.67 | 3.25 | 4 | Upper Alluvium |
| 3 | MWS2 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 4.13 | 1.75 | 6 | Modern MG |
| 4 | MWS2 | N/A | Layer | Alluvium | 2.38 | 2.00 | 4 | Upper Alluvium |
| 5 | MBH1 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 3.94 | 1.00 | 6 | Modern MG |
| 6 | MBH1 | N/A | Layer | Alluvium | 2.94 | 5.50 | 2/4 | Upper / Lower Alluvium |
| 7 | MBH1 | N/A | Layer | Gravel Natural | -2.56 | 28.00 | 1 | Kempton Pk Gravels |
| 8 | MWS3 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 4.16 | 0.75 | 6 | Modern MG |
| 9 | MWS3 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 3.41 | 2.00 | 5 | Historic MG |
| 10 | MWS3 | N/A | Layer | Alluvium | 1.41 | 1.75 | 4 | Upper Alluvium |
| 11 | MWS3 | N/A | Layer | Alluvium | -0.34 | 0.25 | 2 | Lower Alluvium |
| 12 | MWS4 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 3.95 | 0.50 | 6 | Modern MG |
| 13 | MWS4 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 3.45 | 0.80 | 6 | Modern MG |
| 14 | MWS4 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 2.45 | 2.00 | 5 | Historic MG |
| 15 | MBH2 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 3.91 | 0.30 | 6 | Modern MG |
| 16 | MBH2 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 3.61 | 3.30 | 5 | Historic MG |
| 17 | MBH2 | N/A | Layer | Alluvium | 0.31 | 1.07 | 4 | Upper Alluvium |
| 18 | MWS5 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 3.91 | 0.50 | 6 | Modern MG |
| 19 | MWS5 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 3.41 | 1.40 | 5 | Historic MG |
| 20 | MWS5 | N/A | Layer | Alluvium | 2.01 | 1.60 | 4 | Upper Alluvium |
| 21 | MWS6 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 3.91 | 0.50 | 6 | Modern MG |
| 22 | MWS6 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 3.41 | 0.20 | 5 | Historic MG |
| 23 | MWS6 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 3.21 | 2.80 | 5 | Historic MG |
| 24 | MHP1 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 4.35 | 0.20 | 6 | Modern MG |
| 25 | MHP1 | N/A | Fill | Backfill | 4.15 | 1.00 | 6 | Modern BF |
| 26 | MHP2 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 4.16 | 0.20 | 6 | Modern MG |
| 27 | MHP2 | N/A | Fill | Backfill | 3.96 | 0.55 | 6 | Modern BF |
| 28 | MHP2 | N/A | Fill | Backfill | 3.41 | 0.20 | 6 | Modern BF |
| 29 | MBH2 | N/A | Layer | Gravel Natural | -1.59 | 19.00 | 1 | Kempton Pk Gravels |
| 30 | MTP1 | 1 | Layer | Made Ground | 4.26 | 0.20 | 6 | Modern MG |
| 31 | MTP1 | 1 | Layer | Made Ground | 4.06 | 0.20 | 6 | Modern MG |
| 32 | MTP1 | 1 | Layer | Made Ground | 3.86 | 0.03 | 6 | Modern MG |
| 33 | MTP1 | 1 | Layer | Made Ground | 3.83 | 0.07 | 6 | Modern MG |
| 34 | MTP1 | 1 | Layer | Made Ground | 3.76 | 0.40 | 6 | Modern MG |
| 35 | MTP1 | 1 | Layer | Made Ground | 3.36 | 0.80 | 5 | Historic MG |
| 36 | MTP1 | 1 | Layer | Made Ground | 2.56 | 1.70 | 5 | Historic MG |
| 37 | MWS4 | N/A | Layer | Made Ground | 2.65 | 0.20 | 5 | Historic MG |
| 38 | MTP2 | 2 | Layer | Made Ground | 4.31 | 0.10 | 6 | Modern MG |
| 39 | MTP2 | 2 | Layer / Masonry | Made Ground / Structure | 4.21 | 1.20 | 5 | Historic MG / Structure |
| 40 | MTP2 | 2 | Layer / Fill | Made Ground / Backfill | 4.11 | 1.80 | 5 | Historic MG / BF |
| 41 | MTP3 | 3 | Layer | Made Ground | 4.30 | 0.10 | 6 | Modern MG |
| 42 | MTP3 | 3 | Layer / Fill | Made Ground / Backfill | 4.20 | 1.60 | 5 | Historic MG / BF |
| 43 | MTP3 | 3 | Masonry | Foundation | 3.90 | 1.30 | 5 | Historic Structure |
| 45 | MTP4 | 4 | Layer | Made Ground | 4.15 | 2.10 | 5 | Historic MG |
| 46 | MTP4 | 4 | Layer | Alluvium | 2.05 | 0.30 | 4 | Upper Alluvium |
| 47 | MTP5 | 5 | Layer | Made Ground | 4.21 | 0.40 | 6 | Modern MG |

| Context No. | Intervention | Section | Type | Description | Highest Level m OD | Thickness / Depth m | Phase | Name |
|-------------|--------------|---------|---------|-------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------|--------------------|
| 48 | MTP5 | 5 | Layer | Made Ground | 3.81 | 1.30 | 5 | Historic MG |
| 49 | MTP5 | 5 | Layer | Made Ground | 2.51 | 1.10 | 5 | Historic MG |
| 50 | MBH2 | N/A | Layer | Peat | -0.76 | 0.83 | 3 | Peat |
| 51 | MTP2 | 2 | Masonry | Foundation | 4.11 | 1.70 | 5 | Historic Structure |

12 APPENDIX 2: OASIS REPORT

OASIS ID (UID): preconst1-512382

Project Name: Watching Brief at Sun Wharf, Creekside, SE8 3DZ

Activity type: Watching Brief

Project Identifier(s): K8190

Planning Id: DC/20/118229

Reason for Investigation: Planning: Post determination

Organisation Responsible for work: Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project Dates: 03-Jan-2023 - 06-Jan-2023

HER: Greater London HER

HER Identifiers: [no data]

Project Methodology: An archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd during geotechnical investigations at the Sun Wharf, Creekside redevelopment project located in Deptford, in the London Borough of Lewisham, SE8 3DZ. These comprised of six window samples to a maximum depth of ca. 5m BGL and two boreholes to a maximum depth of ca. 35m BGL. These also comprised of five trial pits at a maximum depth of ca.3.3m BGL and two foundation inspection pits at a depth of ca.1.20m BGL.

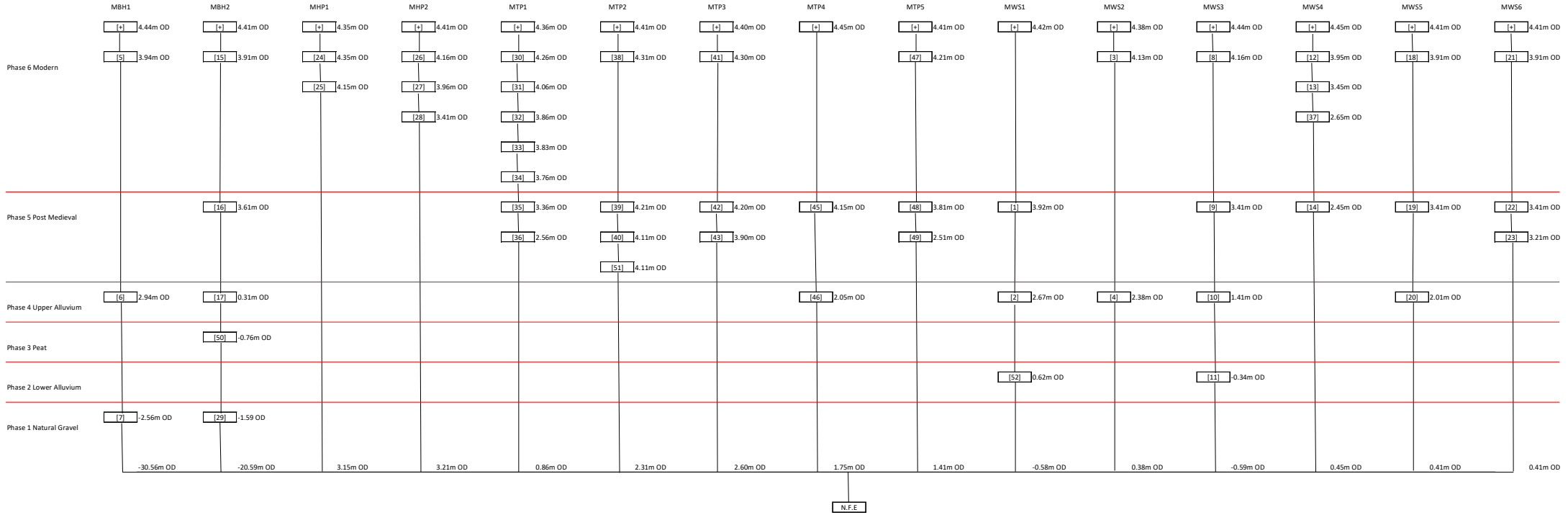
Project Results: In the deepest interventions, natural deposits were encountered consisting of Kempton Park Gravel. The gravels were overlain by peat and alluvium, then sealed by historic made ground - likely the result of post-medieval ground reclamation - and finally modern made ground.

Archive: Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Museum of London;

Reports in OASIS:

Ward, L., (2023). *Archaeological Watching Brief at Sun Wharf, Creekside, SE8 3DZ*. London: Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. R15282.

13 APPENDIX 3: SITE MATRIX



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